C L A R E R U R A L D I S T R I C T

in the

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year

1 9 6 9

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Clare, in the County of West Suffolk, for the year ended 31st December, 1969.

Public Health Department,
Severals House,
Newmarket.

7th September, 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Clare Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of your district for the year ended 31st December, 1969. Dr. J.R.M. Murdoch, your Medical Officer of Health, resigned in September having only served the authority and adjoining districts for one year. Accordingly, the work of the Medical Officer of Health has been carried out by myself and associates in the public health and medical service. Repeated attempts have been unsuccessful in obtaining a qualified medical officer of health to succeed Dr. Murdoch and it may quite well be that the probable delay over local government and the national health service reorganisation together with recurring troubles over pay have created an air of uncertainty amongst public health doctors which is affecting morale. Until the position of the public health medical officer in local government is clarified it would appear there is little possibility of recruiting a qualified public health doctor to the service.

The estimated population of 10,550 was 20 less than the 1968 estimates. The birth rate at 17.4 shows an increase on the previous year and is in excess of the country rate of 16.3. The corrected death rate which makes allowance for the age and sex constitution of the population, is significantly below that for the country which was 11.9 per thousand of estimated population. Heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system accounted for a significant number of deaths but it is interesting to note that from a total of 108 deaths no less than 8 were due to malignant disease of the lung.

The number of notifications of infectious disease was higher than in the previous year due to the undue prevelance of scarlet fever and measles.

It is gratifying to note that the council are progressively increasing the sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in the area but there are still a few villages which do not yet have the benefit of main sewers.

Your Chief Public Health Inspector and Clerk of the Council have done much towards the recording of the information which is given in the main body of the report and as usual it deals with the matters which are covered by official instructions regarding annual reports.

My personal thanks are due to the rural district council's staff for the help they continue to render the district and I am pleased to tell you that your Chief Public Health Inspector co-operates most happily with his colleagues in the adjoining areas in dealing with problems of mutual interest.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D.A. McCRACKEN

Acting Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. J.R.M. Murdoch, M.B , Ch.B., D.P.H.,
who was also M.O.H. to other Districts,
and left the Council's service in
September, 1969.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. H. A. Smith, A.M.I.P.H.E., F.I.A.S., M.R.S.H.,
who also holds the office of Engineer and Surveyor

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. W. J. Black, M.A.P.H.I.,
who serves as Building Inspector

MEAT INSPECTION

A Senior Meat Inspector together with six "authorised officers" are appointed to carry out meat inspection duties at the Little Wratting Abattoir.

GENERAL STATISTICS

(Figures in brackets throughout the report relate to the previous year)

Area of the District	(49,360 acres)	49,360 acres
Number of Parishes	(24)	24
Rateable Value	(£250,716)	£259,930
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,014)	£1,043)
Number of inhabited houses	(3307)	3426
Number of empty houses	(274)	235
Population Census 1961	8,815	-
Population Registrar's Estimate	(June 1968 10,570	June 1969 10,550

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

(as supplied by the General Register Office)

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	85	71	156	(168)
Illegitimate	3	5	8	(3)
Total	88	76	164	(171)

Live birth rate per 1,000 population	15.5	(16.2)
Corrected birth rate (Comp. factor 1.12)	17.4	(18.1)
Live birth rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	16.3	(16.9)
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	5	(1.7)

STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	2	1	3	(1)
Illegitimate	-	-	-	(-)
Total	2	1	3	(1)

Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	18	(5.8)
" " " " " " " " (Eng. & Wales) ..	13	(14.0)

TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	87	72	159	(169)
Illegitimate	3	5	8	(3)
Total	90	77	167	(172)

DEATHS	Male	Female	Total	
	59	49	108	(105)

Death rate per 1,000 population	10.2	(9.9)
Corrected death rate (Comp. factor .89)	9.1	(8.6)
Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales)	11.9	(11.9)

INFANT MORTALITY - Deaths of infants under one year of age.

	Male	Female	Total	
Legitimate	2	1	3	(2)
Illegitimate	-	1	1	(-)
Total	2	2	4	(2)

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	24	(11.7)
" " " " " " " " (England & Wales)	18	(18.0)
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legit. live births	19	(11.9)
Illegitimate " " " " illegit. " "	125	(-)

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births	24	(5.8)

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE

Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	24	(5.8)

PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE

Stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	42	(11.6)

RATES FOR PREVIOUS YEARS	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Adjusted birth rates	16.0	16.4	16.5	20.4	20.2	20.4	18.1	17.4
Adjusted death rates	9.0	10.3	10.4	11.2	8.2	9.6	8.6	9.1

4. CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male	Female
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	-
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2
Other malignant neoplasms	4	1
Diabetes mellitus	1	1
Other diseases of nervous system, etc.	1	-
Hypertensive disease	1	1
Ischaemic heart disease	15	8
Other forms of heart disease	2	5
Cerebrovascular disease	8	7
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	3
Influenza	2	-
Pneumonia	6	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-
Peptic ulcer	1	-
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	2	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	-
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	2
All other accidents	1	2
	59	49
1968	55	50

5. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

	Male	Female	Total	
Scarlet Fever	16	12	28	(2)
Measles	36	33	69	(62)
Infective Hepatitis	2	-	2	(-)
Whooping Cough	3	1	4	(2)
Paratyphoid	-	1	1	(1)
Sonne Dysentery	3	1	4	(-)
	60	48	108	(67)

6. TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
1. Cases at commencement 1969	1	1	-	1	3
2. First notified during 1969	1	2	-	-	3
3. Restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
4. Added by Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
5. Cases removed from Register	-	-	-	-	-
6. Remaining at 31.12.69	2	3	-	1	6

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THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS SUPPLIED BY YOUR SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

A. WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied to your area by the West Suffolk Water Board. The water has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The number of standpipe supplies is now relatively small, and it is estimated that 95 per cent of dwellings in the area have mains water.

A number of houses at Stoke-by-Clare are served from an estate borehole, but I understand this source is to be abandoned and houses are to receive a Water Board supply.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Fifteen of your 24 villages have main drainage and Village Sewerage Schemes are in various stages preceding commencement of work at Stansfield, Poslingford, Cowlinge and Barnardiston. Sewers are being extended in the Clopton and Wickham Street areas of the parish of Wickhambrook and enlargement of the Clare disposal works is in progress. In the Withersfield Parish 14 houses have been drained into the Haverhill Urban District sewer at Meldham Bridge.

Village centres not having the benefit of main sewers are Hawkedon, Denston, Stradishall, Little Wratting and Depden. Whilst sewage nuisances in these villages are not severe they do exist. They will not improve, and will, as in the past, give rise to sporadic complaints. With the exception of Depden preliminary drawings of possible schemes have been seen by The Council and in view of the time in years, it takes to produce and install a village scheme, perhaps the Council should now proceed.

C. CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

The weekly kerbside collection of bin refuse continues and a small amount of trade refuse is collected in Clare. Paper is collected, bagged and sold.

Three old quarries are in use as 'tips' and all give rise to nuisance of various denominations. I am glad the Council elected to enter in agreement with Haverhill U.D.C. to accept and pulverise refuse at their new plant to operate in July next year.

Septic tanks on Council house estates are cleared by Contract and also tanks of private dwellings under the Council's subsidised scheme.

Refuse is taken from containers on main road lay-bys.

I have not seen any need at present to suggest public conveniences on main roads.

D. HOUSING

A considerable number of houses continue to be improved both with and without grant aid. Housing complaints of lack of amenities, repairs and such have been investigated, and owners co-operation in remedying defects has been good. No statutory notices under the Public Health or Housing Acts have been served.

New dwellings continue to be built, largely in estate formation by private enterprise, whilst the Council are erecting two bedroomed bungalows for letting as need arises in small numbers and in several villages.

There are no Common Lodging houses in the area.

A small number of individual caravans are controlled by an annual Planning Consent. There are no site licenses in operation.

One or two gipsy caravans arrive in your area for a few days at irregular intervals only.

E. PET SHOPS

There are none in the area.

ANIMAL BOARDING KENNELS

Only one is registered.

NOISE ABATEMENT

No statutory action was called for.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No formal action was necessary.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The number of premises registered under the Act is 35. Contraventions in relation to ventilation and water supply were remedied.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT STORAGE

There are 72 licensed petrol storage installations in your area.

F. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Inspections reveal that a reasonably good standard of hygiene is being maintained at premises offering food for sale and also in mobile vehicles. Any faults lie in the absence of efficient washing facilities and identification of vans.

There is no ice cream manufactured in the area and shops selling pre-packed ice cream are registered to do so.

The one licensed slaughterhouse in your area is at The Little Wratting Abattoir where extensive enlargements are in progress. The premises are also licensed to carry on the process of blood drying, fat melting, rendering and gut scraping.

A licensed knackers yard exists at Chilton near Clare. No animals are slaughtered on these premises.

Licensed slaughtermen number 42.

Only one whole carcase out of 390,402 pigs killed and inspected was condemned for tuberculosis. 962 whole carcases were condemned for other diseases. In all, meat rejected as unfit amounted to 72 tons

and offal 172 tons, all being removed daily from the Abattoir for processing into fertilizers, glues etc.

There are no poultry processing premises in the area.

G. FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	18	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	8	3	-	-
Total	34	22	1	-

2. Cases in which defects were found 2

3. Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

No. of Outworkers :-

Making of wearing apparel - 6

Firework base assembly - 14